



December 10, 2009

Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program
c/o The Department of Conservation, Office of Sustainability
801 K Street, MS 24-01
Sacramento, CA 95814
Sent via email: DOCSustainability@conservation.ca.gov

Members of the Strategic Growth Council, staff, and committees,

Thank you for your efforts to create the draft Sustainable Communities Planning Grant guidelines, and for your commitment to an exemplary public participation process. You have already shown great leadership and commitment to addressing climate change and collaborating across agencies to move the state forward in meeting Prop 84 goals.

Attached to this letter is a redline version of the draft guidelines that incorporates language to address our comments. The highlights of our comments include:

- Supporting and leveraging the planning for SB 375 is one of the most cost-effective ways for the Council to pursue its goals statewide
- Prioritize plans that result in real on-the-ground change in communities
- Promote local and regional collaboration
- Ensure plans protect natural resources and improve public health
- Prioritize the needs of disadvantaged and low-income communities

We appreciate the opportunity to be involved in this exciting effort. Please see our specific suggested revisions included in redline format.

Sincerely,

Judy Corbett, Executive Director
Local Government Commission

Larry Greene, Air Pollution Control Officer / Executive Director
Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District

Elyse Lowe, Executive Director
Move San Diego

Elizabeth O'Donohue, Director of Infrastructure and Land Use
The Nature Conservancy

Amanda Eaken, Land Use Policy Analyst
Natural Resources Defense Council

Robin Salsburg, Senior Staff Attorney
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Jeremy Madsen, Executive Director
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